



Elmscot

Group

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE MORE

FEES AND FUNDING SUMMER 2026



HELP TOWARDS CHILDCARE COSTS

Paying for childcare has been made more accessible in recent years.

How that looks is different for every family and depends on multiple factors from the age of your child and your family's circumstances.

We accept multiple methods of payment for your child's fees.

Direct debit – Bank transfer – Card payment – Childcare vouchers – Early Years Funding – Tax Free Childcare

Please visit: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/whats-new> to see if you meet the criteria for any of the below:

9 month funding – 30 hours per week over 38 weeks

2 Year FRAS funding – 15 hours per week over 38 weeks

2 Year working parent funding – 30 hours per week over 38 weeks

3 year universal funding – ALL 3 year olds are eligible for 15 hours of universal funding the term after they turn 3. This is not means tested.

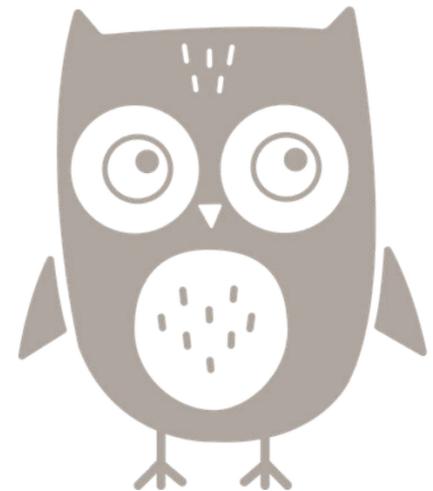
3 year extended funding – 15 hours per week over 38 weeks (this is what makes up the universal hours above to 30)

Tax free childcare – up to £2000 per year towards the cost of your fees

Universal Credit childcare – Claim back up to 85% of eligible childcare costs

Please note from September 2025, all children under working parent funding will be eligible for 30 hours of childcare.

This doubles their previous eligibility.



3/4 YEAR OLD UNIVERSAL FUNDING

15 hours of funded childcare per week is available to families in England with eligible children aged 3-4 years.

This is 15 funded hours over 38 term weeks = 570 hours per year.

This funding is **NOT** means tested and is available to all children the term after they turn 3. You do not require a funding code for this funding type, but we do require a completed funding form to enable us to submit your claim for you with the local authority. Please do look out for your funding form each term.



Children born between:	Are eligible from:
1st April and 31st August	1st September (Autumn term)
1st September and 31st December	1st January (Spring term)
1st January and 31st March	1st April (Summer term)



Best Start in Life
Advice and support for your child's development



WORKING PARENT FUNDING

If you live and work in England you may be entitled to 30 hours funded childcare support from the term after your child turns 9 months old, until they start school. For April 2026, your child will have a birthday of 30th June 2025 or before.

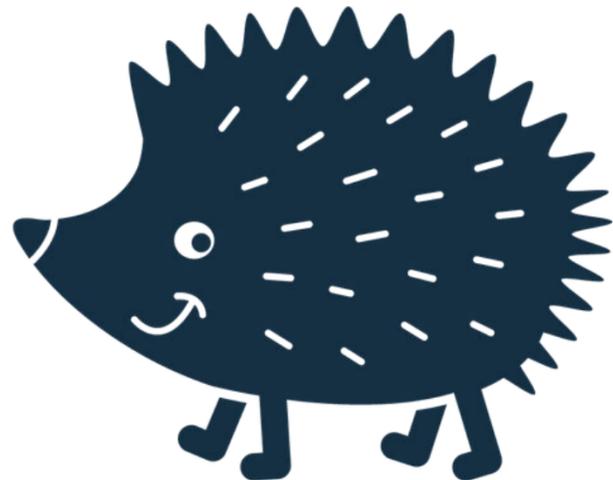
From the term after your child's 3rd birthday, this can be combined with the 15 hour entitlement for all 3 and 4 year olds to make up 30 hours of funded support over 38 weeks of the year.

You can usually get funded childcare for working parents if you (and your partner, if you have one) are:

- in work or starting a new job
- on sick leave or annual leave
- on shared parental, maternity, paternity or adoption leave

The amount of funded childcare you can get depends on:

- your child's age and circumstances
- your income (and your partner's income, if you have one)
- your immigration status



YOUR EARNINGS

Working parent funding

Over the next 3 months you and your partner (if you have one) must each expect to earn at least:

- £2,539.68 before tax if you're aged 21 or over (equivalent to £195.36 per week)
- £2,080 before tax if you're aged 18 to 20 (equivalent to £160 per week)
- £1,570.40 before tax if you're under 18 or an apprentice (equivalent to £120.80 per week)

This is equivalent to the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours a week, on average.



You can earn up to £100,000 adjusted net income per year and be eligible. If you or your partner have an expected adjusted net income over £100,000 in the current tax year, you will not be eligible.

You can use an average of how much you expect to earn over the current tax year if:

- you work throughout the year but do not get paid regularly
- you're self-employed and do not expect to earn enough in the next 3 months

If you're not currently working you may still be eligible if your partner is working, and you are on carer's leave or if you get any of the following:

- Incapacity Benefit
- Severe Disablement Allowance
- Carer's Allowance
- Limited Capability for Work Benefit
- Contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance

HOW TO APPLY

Once you have checked your eligibility, please go to: <https://www.gov.uk/sign-in-childcare-account> and set up your gateway account. You will need to provide identification and supporting documents such as passport/national insurance number for yourself and your partner (if you have one).

Once you have a gateway account you will then be able to apply for your childcare code. It is this code that is required to enable nursery to claim funding on your behalf with the local authority.

You will also gain access to your tax free childcare within this portal which enables you to receive a 20% top up from HMRC. You simply pay 80% of your invoice value into your tax free childcare account and HMRC will top up the difference up to £2000 per annum per child. You then send the full invoice total to nursery by selecting us as a payee. You can access your tax free account once activated, even if you are not eligible for funding to start until the following term.



**BEST
START
IN LIFE**

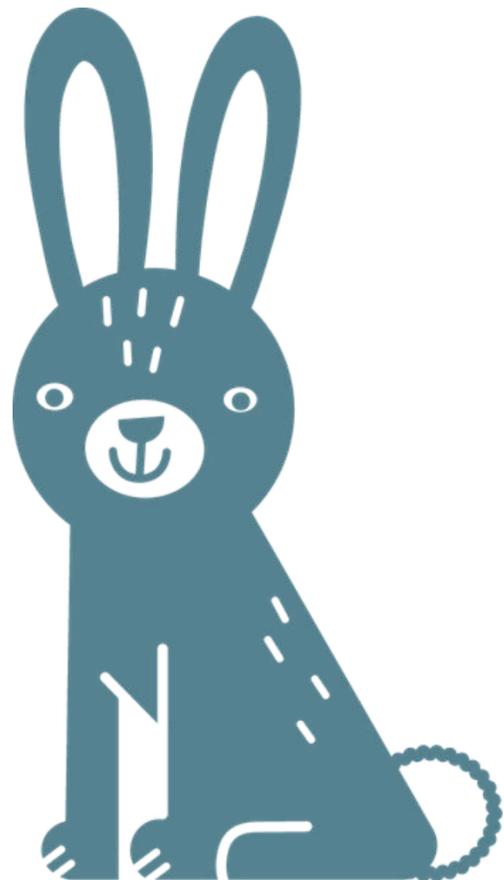
The logo for 'Best Start in Life' features three colored squares (yellow, pink, and blue) stacked vertically to the left of the text. The text 'BEST', 'START', and 'IN LIFE' is written in a bold, purple, sans-serif font, stacked vertically.

WHEN TO APPLY

As per HMRC guidelines, there are cut off dates when it comes to having a valid code for a term. If you miss the deadline it will be the following term that you would fall eligible to claim. This is not a nursery choice, this is a HMRC deadline.

These dates are as below.

Term:	Latest start date for funding code (working parents):
Autumn	31st August
Spring	31st December
Summer	31st March



Please note when returning from maternity leave, you can not apply for funding until 31 days before your return. We have seen parents miss out if they do not factor in the funding dates with their return to work. It would then be the following term before you could receive funding.

2 YEAR OLD FUNDING - FAMILIES REQUIRING ADDITIONAL SUPPORT (FRAS).

Your 2-year-old can get funded early learning if you live in England and receive some additional forms of support. This includes support such as Jobseeker's allowance, Universal Credit and Tax Credit, but also for those children who are in receipt of DLA or are a looked after child/children under an Adoption order

This is 15 hours per week over 38 term weeks = 570 hours per year.

Giving your 2-year-old a head start in learning can be great for their future. Early years education can help little ones make friends and play, developing their social and practical skills in a safe place that works alongside what you do at home. This early start can set your child up for a lifetime of learning and success.

With this type of funding, you require a code or "ticket" from the local authority. Please note, that this must be from the local authority under which the nursery is located. Please contact the nursery if you are unsure.

Once you have your code or ticket, please complete your funding form and upload this information to enable us to claim for you.



 <p>Welcome to Trafford Pay your Council Tax, view your bill online, and get help with other Council Tax queries. Trafford Council</p>	 <p>Live Well Cheshire East Directory for health, wellbeing, social care, family support, SEND, and local services in Cheshire East to live well and stay independent. cheshireeast.gov.uk</p>	<p>Home Information for residents, businesses, and visitors of west Cheshire Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>
--	--	---

HOW WILL FUNDING BE APPLIED TO MY BOOKING?

Funding is allocated as term time equivalent—38 weeks. As we are open for 51 weeks, your funding is “stretched” to cover the full year and ensure you have funding throughout the unfunded weeks.

Those new to funding part way through the funding year will see an adjusted total. This is because we claim over 47.5 weeks with Trafford council as per their allowances at 12/24 hours per week. Autumn 16 weeks, Spring 12 weeks & Summer 19.5 weeks.

From the following September this will then become a full funded year.

Funding from September:

15 hours = 12 hours x 47.5 weeks = 570 hours hours available

570 hours divided by 12 months = 47.5 hours per month (11 hours 10 minutes per week)

30 hours = 24 hours x 47.5 weeks = 1140 hours hours available

1140 hours divided by 12 months = 95 hours per month (22 hours 20 minutes per week)

Funding from January:

15 hours = 12 hours x 31.5 weeks = 378 hours available

378 hours divided by 8 months = 47.25 hours per month (10 hours 48 minutes per week)

30 hours = 24 hours x 31.5 funding weeks = 756 hours available

756 hours divided by 8 months = 94.5 hours per month (21 hours 36 minutes per week)

Funding from April:

15 hours = 12 hours x 19.5 weeks = 234 hours available

234 hours divided by 5 months = 46.8 hours per month (10 hours 37 minutes per week)

30 hours = 24 hours x 19.5 funding weeks = 468 hours available

468 hours divided by 5 months = 93.6 hours per month (21 hours 14 minutes per week)





ENHANCED BOOKING CHARGE

Funded hours cover teaching time only; they do not include meals, snacks, consumables, or enhanced activities. These additional expenses are billed separately under the "enhanced booking charge," which is linked to the funded hours only and invoiced monthly. For parents who pay the full session fee before funding, all these items are included in the session price.

Whilst funding is designed to provide basic provisions and ensure a minimum level of care and support for children, the enhanced offerings are what truly distinguish Elmscot Day Nursery. Our committed team goes beyond these basic needs, offering children and families an exceptional start to their journey.

The cost is specific to each setting and reflects the unique cost structure of that facility before accounting for funding.

Everything you see at the nursery—including enhanced learning resources, daily meals and snacks, and extra-curricular activities—comes from these budgets. This distinction is made clear to differentiate between what is included with the allocated funding and what is not.

Elmscot is committed to delivering high-quality childcare and nurturing environments. The enhanced booking charge ensures that parents can access government funding while maintaining the sustainability of our facilities. By paying this charge, parents can continue to benefit from the following key areas:

Meals and snacks

At Elmscot Day Nursery, our chef prepares delicious meals and snacks for the children. Our thoughtfully crafted menu is designed to promote nutritious eating habits while accommodating various dietary requirements and allergy needs. We are accoladed for our commitment to using sustainable suppliers and quality produce.

Throughout the day, we serve:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Snacks
- Tea

£1.20 per funded hour

Consumables

Consumables in the nursery refer to items that are utilized during a child's time at the facility and must be replaced or allocated to a specific child.

The funding does not cover the following consumables:

- Wipes
- Nappy creams
- Sun cream
- Laundered bedding for nap time
- Medications such as Calpol and Piriton

70p per funded hour

Enhanced activities

Enhanced provision includes the following offerings:

- Forest school sessions
- Nursery allotment sessions
- Trips in the community
- Stay and play sessions
- Specialised classes such as yoga/music/sports
- Celebrations and activities for various world, religious, and cultural events
- Mother's and Father's Day events
- Graduation ceremonies
- Sensory activities
- Access to Parentzone for updates on your child's learning and development

90p per funded hour

This charge will show on your invoice multiplied by the hours you are accessing. For those using the full entitlement this would be £266 per month.

If you find yourself unable or unwilling to pay this charge, please reach out to your nursery manager for assistance.

EXAMPLE BOOKING

Please see below an example of a 3 day booking using 30 hours funding starting in September on current fee rates:

3 full days = £80 x 3 = £240 per week x 51 weeks (Christmas Closure) / 12 months = £1020 per month (this is the unfunded fee)

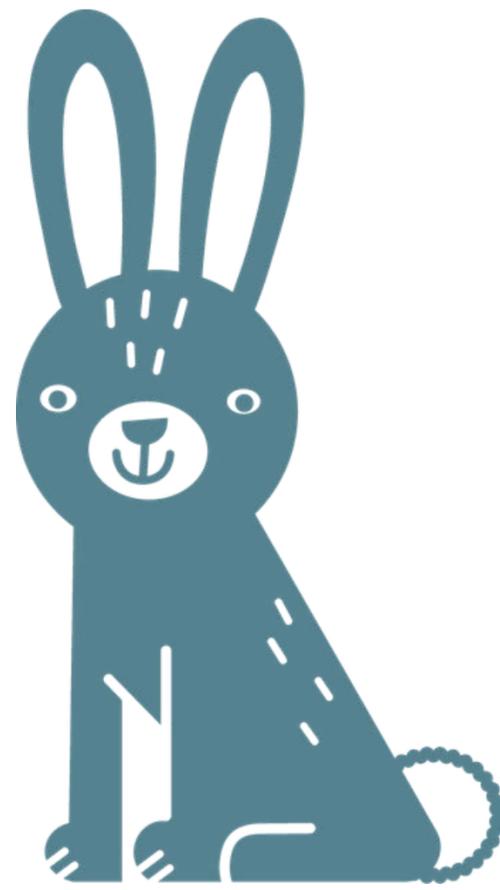
Funding = 30 hours x 38 term weeks / 12 months = 95 hours per month (22 hours 20 minutes per week).

£8 x 95 hours = £760 per month deducted for funded hours

£1020 - £760 = £260 per month

Enhanced booking charge = £2.80 x 95 hours = £266 per month

£260 + £266 = £526 per month (£420.80 if using Tax Free Childcare).



WHAT MAKES YOUR JOURNEY AT WILLOW TREE A SPECIAL ONE?

At Willow Tree, our goal is to provide children and families with a nurturing, home-like atmosphere where they can thrive in a warm, caring environment. Our dedicated team is committed to ensuring that every day is filled with engaging activities for children to explore and learn.

We are fortunate to be situated near Sale town center and close to Sale Water Park, allowing us to take full advantage of the community's offerings. Our adventures include pond dipping at the water park, tram rides to the airport, and visits to the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester. For our younger children, we have two turtle buses that help us venture out. Worthington Park is just down the road, and we frequently visit the greengrocers in Sale Moor to teach children about healthy living and active lifestyles.

Over the past five years, we have made significant improvements to the nursery, including the creation of a new garden space that allows all children to fully utilize the outdoors throughout the day. Our garden features dedicated allotment boxes where children are encouraged to grow fruit and vegetables used in cooking activities. We also have an apple and pear tree, and children participate in harvesting the annual crops with our outdoor lead, Mark, who visits several times a week. Currently, we are working towards the RHS School Gardening Awards, having successfully completed levels 1 and 2.

At the back of the nursery, we have a dedicated Pre-School classroom where children spend their final year with us. A devoted teacher oversees the curriculum for our school leavers and collaborates with local primary schools to ensure a smooth transition to formal education.

Our nursery offers a variety of extra-curricular activities, including weekly yoga sessions, forest school trips where children explore local woodlands with our forest school lead, and music and movement sessions with Moo Music for our younger children, facilitated by an external expert. Our kitchen team prepares freshly cooked meals daily, ensuring they are nutritious and balanced, helping children meet their five-a-day goals while including protein, carbohydrates, and dairy in each meal. We've worked hard to reduce ultra-processed foods, focusing on using pure ingredients whenever possible.

Throughout the year, we host various family events, such as grandparents' afternoon tea, Mother's Day craft sessions, Father's Day breakfasts, parents' evenings, stay and play sessions, an Easter bonnet parade, and much more. Our team is dedicated to ongoing training, enhancing their knowledge and skills to ensure our practices remain current. We express our gratitude through monthly events that include well-being baskets, non-uniform days, special breakfasts, birthday days off, and additional holidays during the Christmas break.

As a nursery, we strive to provide the highest quality service to all our stakeholders, including children, parents, extended families, and our team. We utilize various quality assurance schemes to benchmark our practices, including audits from Hopscotch Early Years Consultancy. Our in-house Early Years lead, Diane, spends two days a week supporting the nursery, alongside our committed management team who participate in local authority network meetings to share best practices from across the borough.



FUNDING LOOP AND FUNDING FORMS

To secure funding for a parent, we must submit a funding form. These forms are distributed to parents through Funding Loop and automatically fill in the information we have regarding your child's enrolment for the upcoming term. Without a completed form, we cannot claim your funding on your behalf. Please note that funding is periodically audited by the local authority.

Funding is determined by a "headcount date," which occurs each term. This date serves as the cut-off for a child's attendance and captures a "snapshot" of their booking. If the information on your form appears incorrect, please inform the nursery so we can make the necessary corrections.

You might receive a funding form even if you are not eligible, and that is perfectly acceptable. Simply notify the nursery, and we will make a note of it. As all children become eligible for funding in the term following their third birthday, you will need to complete a form at that time to receive your 15 hours of funding.

With the recent surge in funding requests, we are experiencing an unprecedented volume of administration to ensure that all eligible parents receive their entitled benefits. We kindly ask you to complete your form at your earliest convenience or inform us if you are not eligible.



UNIVERSAL CREDIT CHILDCARE



Universal Credit can help with the costs of childcare. You may be able to claim up to 85% of your registered childcare costs if you're eligible for Universal Credit, in paid work or due to start a job in the next month.

You have to pay for your childcare costs yourself unless you are eligible for an initial up-front childcare cost payment. You then report them through your Universal Credit account and will be paid some of the money back in your next Universal Credit payment. You can get up to 85% of childcare costs paid back to you. The maximum amount for each assessment period is:

- £1,031.88 for one child
- £1,768.94 for 2 or more children

You will only get the money back with Universal Credit after the childcare actually happens.

You usually report your childcare costs in your online Universal Credit account. You can do this when you first make a claim, or at any point in your claim.

You need to:

- provide proof of which childcare provider you use. This must be with Ofsted 'registered' childcare providers.
- tell Universal Credit the dates of childcare you paid for, how much you paid and the date you made the payment
- provide proof of payment
- Report your childcare costs as soon as possible after paying them. If you leave it for longer than 2 assessment periods, you might not get the money back

FURTHER QUESTIONS?

We are a small team here at Elmscot and do everything to help make what can be a confusing process as easy as we can for you.

If you have any questions regarding what support you may be entitled to, please contact finance directly on finance@elmscot.co.uk and we will happily assist.



Elmscot
Group

